

# COMMUNITY, COUNSELING AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, INC.

**Corporate Office Building**  
**471 East Mercury Street**  
**Butte, Montana 59701**

**phone: (406) 782-0417 fax: (406) 782-6964**

**email: [corporate@ccscorp.com](mailto:corporate@ccscorp.com) website: [www.ccscorp.com](http://www.ccscorp.com)**

**Board of Directors:** Joe Murphy, President • Connie Kenney, Vice-President • Jim Graham, Secretary •  
Fred Stradinger, Treasurer • Don Peoples, Board Member • Pat Fleming, Board Member •  
Wayne Harper, Board Member • Kathy Fasso, Board Member • Father Tom Haffey, Board Member •  
John Kasperick, Board Member

**Corporate Staff:** Mike Thatcher, CEO • Steve McArthur, Director Community Correctional Programs •  
Perry Hawbaker, CFO • Colleen O'Leary, Director Human Resources • Dave Boyd, Director Treatment  
Programs & Services • Ryan Lynch Director of Development & Administration

Bismarck Transition Center  
Kevin Arthaud, Adm.  
2001 Lee Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58504  
701-222-3440 Fax 701-222-3599

Butte Pre-Release Center  
Women's Transitional Center  
Jay Grant, Adm.  
58-68 W. Broadway  
Butte, MT 59701  
BPRC 406-782-2316  
WTC 406-782-6446 Fax 406-723-1170

Connections Corrections Program  
Dave Boyd, Adm.  
111 W. Broadway  
Butte, MT 59701  
406-782-6626 Fax 406-782-6676

Discovery House  
Carole Kovacich, Adm.  
65 Sheep Gulch Road  
Anaconda, MT 59711  
406-563-3842 Fax 406-563-2451

Gallatin Re-Entry Facility  
Melissa Kelly, Adm.  
675 S. 16 Street  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
406-994-0300 Fax 406-994-0306

Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Facility  
Robert Palmquist, Adm.  
P.O. Box 670  
Medical Lake, WA 99022  
509-299-7733 Fax 509-299-1447

Nexus Program  
Rick Barman, Adm.  
P.O. Box 1200  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
406-535-6660 Fax 406-535-6665

RYO Correctional Facility  
Travis Hettick, Adm.  
360 Galen Street  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722  
406-693-9975 Fax 406-693-9988

START Program  
George Strutzel, Adm.  
801 MT Hwy 48  
Anaconda, MT 59711  
406-563-7002 Fax 406-563-5069

WATCH Program  
Alex Vukovich, Adm.  
Box G  
Warm Springs, MT 59756  
406-693-2272 Fax 406-693-2276

WATCH East  
Sarah Simon, Adm.  
700 Little Street  
Glendive, MT 59330  
406-377-6001 Fax 406-377-6004

June 21, 2016

The Council for State Governments Officials  
The Montana Sentencing Commission Members  
Helena, Montana

Re: Montana Justice Reinvestment Initiative  
Policy Options – Recommendations

Dear Council/Commission Members:

I have had the opportunity to read the above draft document and I ask for the CSG's indulgence while I offer some comments regarding same. My name is Jay Grant and I am the Program Administrator for both the Butte Pre-Release Center Men's Program (BPRC) and the Women's Transitional Center (WTC), which are co-located pre-release centers in Uptown Butte that became operational in 1983 and 1992, respectively.

I appreciate the work that has been undertaken in this process and the Goals noted on page 1 of the document are, in my opinion, and for the most part, universally-held by those working in corrections in Montana. Having said that, I must go on record in voicing my *strongest objections* to those proposed Policy Options that would reduce the resident's Length of Stay in pre-release from 6 months to 3 months and any consideration being given to changing the Local Screening Committee process.

The proposal to "incentivize" pre-release centers to take a greater number of high-risk offender applicants must be met with the comment that the community-based programs in Montana are presently accepting a good number of high-risk offenders and by simply paying a higher per diem rate for their community placement does not, in my opinion, validate any potential benefit(s) from the proposal that would reduce Length of Stays.

Placing high risk offenders in pre-release demands more intensive, evidence-based programming. It is my opinion that high risk offenders require more time in pre-release because they bring more challenges and personal deficits to the table and if we are simply to prod them through programming at a very fixed pace, we are going to face more program violations, escalating disciplinary issues and walk-aways. In my opinion, under this concept, the individual resident's ability to save enough money for the time when they transition out of the program would be severely impacted; finding



affordable housing (at even the very lowest end of the housing spectrum) would become a serious issue; any focus on making payments towards fines, restitution obligations, family support, etc. would diminish to the point where it would become a rarity; and, the equity that all community-based programs have worked tirelessly to develop and nurture within their respective communities would definitely be negatively impacted. Employers in the community, who have come to count upon a ready source of employees, would also be adversely affected as the potential employee turnover rates would increase, ongoing on-the-job, or specialized training plans could lead potential employers to look elsewhere for workers and the requisite employer paperwork would increase. Pre-release centers in Montana have heavily invested in developing program efficacies that have successfully demonstrated their worth to the members of the general public in those communities where pre-release centers are located. A monumental change in operational flow would surely bring a string of inquiries from the public.

The Local Screening Committee (LSC) Process in Butte functions very well. All of the members of our LSC have served on the LSC for many years. The LSC is comprised of the Sheriff (or his designee) of Butte-Silver Bow County, a representative from the Butte Office of Adult Probation and Parole, a member of CCCS' Board of Directors, a citizen representative and the Program Administrator of the BPRC/WTC. As such, they have come to know the basic workings of the pre-release, i.e., programming, security protocols, personnel, etc. Each member of the LSC has developed keen personal insight as to the general appropriateness for placement regarding those offenders who apply. It has always been the case that the LSC, as part of their duties, places the highest of premiums on public safety and victim's rights and they take these responsibilities very seriously. The members of the LSC are also good community advocates for pre-release as they all travel in different professional and social circles and are quick to correct any misinformation that they may encounter in the community. The members of our local LSC meet on a fixed and regular basis – at least twice per month – and they review and deliberate every case since the last time they convened. *(When an offender file needs immediate review, I will have the file taken to every member of the LSC for their review and approval).* The LSC process works very effectively and efficiently in Butte and I am sure that that is the case within the other programs.

It should be noted that during the past 5 years, CCCS has over-served its residential and non-residential bed capacities in an amount totaling 1.5M dollars. During the current fiscal year, CCCS is projecting that it will over-serve its existing contracts by an amount approximating \$300,000. Exceeding our current bed capacities clearly demonstrates that CCCS can move offenders in a very timely manner; that the LSC recognizes the need to keep the process as "fluid" as possible; and that by placing offenders as quickly as possible into programming, we are staying true to our mission to truly save lives, all the while saving taxpayer dollars.

In closing, I thank the members for your time. The work that you are engaged in is significant and will produce lasting effects. I respectfully request that you re-examine the Policy Options I noted above for I believe they are not viable options in community-based corrections at this time.

Sincerely,



**JAY GRANT**  
Program Administrator  
BPRC/WTC